=> National Institute for Fashion- Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs)are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

=> The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) policies announced for the period 2000-2004 provides stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

=> Three new schemes have been included in the Plan of the Ministry to strengthen the garment sector, the jute industry and improve infrastructure in export oriented clusters.

=> A textile package of concessions and scheme has been announced in the budget 2001-2002, which includes the modernization of the decentralized powerloom sector by the induction of 2.5 lakh semi/ automatic looms and reduction of duties on import of critical machinery.

Steps to stop slow-down in textile industry

4087. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACI1ANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have called upon the textile industry to give concrete suggestions to put a brake on the slow-down witnessed during the past few months;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions of the textile industrialists receive by the Union Government;

(c) the extent to which the suggestions will be helpful during the Tenth Plan; and

(d) how far the sick mills/industry will be improved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) and (d) The consultation with the industry for formation of various schemes is an on going process. The industry is also represented adequately in most of the High Powered Committees of the Ministry of Textiles. The industry has made suggestions mainly for modernization of the industry to strengthen production base, to improve competitiveness, rationalization of fiscal duties and simplification of procedures.

The Government have duly considered the suggestions made by the industry and have taken several steps to accelerate the growth and development and exports. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernization of textile industry has been launched. Custom duty on selected machinery items has been reduced from 15% to 5%. CVD on selected textile machinery has been abolished. The duty drawbacks rates have been revised. The suggestions made by the industry have been duly considered keeping in view the interest of all competing sectors for balanced growth and incorporated in the Xth plan document for consideration by the Government.

Employment opportunities by Textile Industry

†4088. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI KAPILSIBAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile industry in the country figures amongst top five industries generating maximum employment opportunities;

(b) if so, which place is held by the textile industry amongst these five industries; and

(c) the estimated total number of persons working in this industry at the beginning and at the end of 1990, respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After agriculture, textile industry is second largest employment provider.

(c) The textile industry is pre-dominantly in decentralized sector and as such authentic information with regard to number of persons employed in different segments is not available. However, textile sector contributes around 28% of the total industrial workforce. The details of number of persons working in cotton/man-made fibre textile mill sector, decentralized powerloom sector, woollen sector, readymade garment industry etc. excluding sericulture, jute

†Original notice ol the question was received in Hindi.